

Message Text

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ACTION EB-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 INSE-00

SCA-01 DRC-01 /055 W

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R 011530Z SCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4528

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 5405

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PN, GT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: MINCOMMUNICATIONS RAISES PAN AM/AVIATECA ISSUE

REF: GUATEMALA 5345 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING CALL FOR OTHER REASONS BY EMBOFF ON MINCOMMUNICATIONS ANZUETO SEPT. 30, ANZUETO RAISED PAN AM/AVIATECA ISSUE. HE SAID THAT AVIATECA WAS BEING TROUBLED IN NEW ORLEANS BY USG (PRESUMABLY IMMIGRATION SERVICE) ABOUT ITS GUATEMALAN EMPLOYEES. EXPLAINING THAT PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN STARTED TO CAUSE EMPLOYEES TO RETURN TO GUATEMALA, ANZUETO DECLARED THAT IT APPEARED THAT PANAM WAS STRIKING BACK AGAINST FIFTH FREEDOM RESTRICTION RECENTLY ADOPTED BY GOG. (HE ALSO DECLARED THAT HE WOULD GET AROUND PROBLEM BY MAKING EMPLOYEES MEMBERS OF GOG CONSULATE STAFF). AFTER EMBOFF DECLARED THAT HE HAD NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD ANYTHING TO SUPPORT ANZUETO'S SUPPOSITION AND EXPRESSED STRONG PERSONAL DOUBT, ANZUETO CHANGED TACK BY OBSERVING IN PSEUDO NAIVE MANNER THAT HE HAD HEARD "SOME SORT OF AVIATION GROUP" FROM US WAS TO VISIT GUATEMALA TO DISCUSS PAN AM PROBLEM.

2. GIVEN THIS OPENING, EMBOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RELATE BACKGROUND AND FACTS OF MATTER. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL FEELING THAT THE OPERATING STATUS OF PAN AM IN GUATEMALA AND AVIATECA IN THE US SHOULD BE PLACED ON A MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERMANENT FOOTING THAN THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF TEMPORARY PERMITS. ANZUETO PROFESSED TO AGREE AND THEN REVEALED THAT HE KNEW QUITE A BIT ABOUT THE PROPOSED CIVAIR VISIT AND THE AMBASSADOR'S VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS ON THAT THEME. HE DECLARED THAT THE GOG WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS A BILATERAL BUT WOULD NOT CONSIDER FOR INCLUSION IN SUCH AN AGREEMENT PAN AM'S OPERATIONS BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND THIRD COUNTRIES. ANZUETO THEN DECLARED HIMSELF PUZZLED AS TO WHY THE AMBASSADOR HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO FONMIN OVER AVIATECA'S "NIBBLING AWAY" TACTICS VIS A VIS PAN AM. THE GOG, HE DECLARED, FOLLOWS AN "OPEN SKIES" POLICY. ANZUETO EXPLAINED THAT PHRASE TO MEAN THAT THE GOG WOULD WELCOME "100 ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS" FROM THE US, "BUT NO MORE FOR PAN AM" (SIC). GUATEMALA, ACCORDING TO ANZUETO, HAS THE DJ L PURPOSE OF FURTHERING ITS TOURIST DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FLIGHTS FROM THE MIDWEST AND SOUTH AND OF AVOIDING TOTAL DEPENDENCE UPON PAN AM. "WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PAN AM (AS SOLE CARRIER) WENT ON STRIKE?" HE ASKED. EMBOFF AT THIS POINT PROFESSED CONFUSION BY ASKING WHY PAN AM, OPERATING FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF PORTS OF EXIT, SHOULD HAVE ITS FLIGHTS RESTRICTED UNDER THIS POLICY. ANZUETO THEREUPON BACKTRACKED BY SAYING THAT THE NUMBER OF PAN AM FLIGHTS COULD ALSO RISE IN THE INTEREST OF GUATEMALA TOURISM. FINALLY, AS IF TO CLARIFY THESE CONTRADICTOR REMARKS, ANZUETO SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT THE GOG'S POLICY WAS "PROTECTIONIST".

3. COMMENT: FACT ANZUETO RAISED PAN AM ISSUE IS INTERESTING. IN RECENT MONTHS HE HAS HAD SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO WITH EMBOFF BUT AVOIDED ALL OPENINGS. PROBABLY HE WISHED TO MAINTAIN STANCE THAT ISSUE FELL AT GOVERNMENT-TO-COMPANY RATHER THAN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL. IF SO, HE NOW RECOGNIZES THAT THE BARRIER, AT LEAST, HAS BEEN BREACHED. ACCORDINGLY, HE IS PREPARING HIMSELF FOR A FIGHT. ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE UNWARRANTED TO DRAW TOO MANY CONCLUSIONS FROM HIS CONFLICTING REMARKS, HE MAY WELL HAVE REVEALED A MAJOR WEAKNESS. ANZUETO'S HANG UP APPEARS TO BE PAN AM, NOT US AIR SERVICE IN GENERAL OR EVEN THE FURTHERMENT OF AVIATECA. THIS MAY BE A WEAKNESS OUR TEAM CAN EXPLOIT.

DECONTROL AFTER 10/1/76
ANDREWS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRLINES, AVIATION REGULATIONS, CIVIL AVIATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GUATEM05405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740277-0701
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741087/aaaahdsd.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 GUATEMALA 5345
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971103
Subject: CIVAIR: MINCOMMUNICATIONS RAISES PAN AM/AVIATECA ISSUE
TAGS: EAIR, GT, PN, AVIATECA, PANAM, (ANZUETO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005